

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03948 191740Z

51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 191700Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3443

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T CAIRO 3948

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, XF, SA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SADAT-ASAD MEETING IN RIYADH

1. DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR APIRL 19, SADAT MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT ASAD'S REACTION TO SUSPENSION ASWAN SHUTTLE AND SARG'S CURRENT TACTICS.

2. ASAD HAD BEEN PEDDLING LINE (AS HAD ARAFAT) THAT USG AND GOE HAD PREDETERMINED OUTCOME OF SHUTTLE BEFORE IT BEGAN. WHEN SHUTTLE WAS SUSPENDED, SADAT'S POSITION IN ARAB WORLD WAS STRENGTHENED AND ASAD'S USG-GOE COLLUSION THEORY WAS PROVEN FALSE.

3. DIPLOMATICALLY DISCOMFITED, ASAD THEREUPON ASKED ARAFAT AND ABU IYAD TO GO TO CAIRO TO TALK TO SADAT ON HIS BEHALF (COMMENT: IMMINENT PREPARATIONS FOR BAATH PRTY CONGRESS, ARRESTS IN DAMASCUS, AND TROUBLES WITH IRAQ PERHAPS CONTRIBUTED TO ASAD'S UNEASE). ASAD, SADAT PUT IN, CANNOT RPT NOT ABIDE ABU IYAD; ARAFAT IS ACCEPTABLE, BUT NOT ABU IYAD.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03948 191740Z

4. ASAD GIVE ARAFAT A LETTER TO DELIVER TO SADAT IN WHICH, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE MADE THE EXPLICIT ADMISSION THAT EGYPT CAN MAKE PEACE OR WAR WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SYRIA, BUT SYRIA CAN MAKE NEITHER PEACE NOR WAR IN ISOLATION FROM EGYPT. (COMMENT: WHILE ARAFAT WAS IN EGYPT, HE SAID PUBLICLY THAT ARABS NEED EGYPT TO MAKE WAR, BUT EGYPT NEEDS ARABS TO MAKE PEACE.) ARAFAT CONVEYED ASAD'S REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND THIS IS NOW SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN RIYADH ON TUESDAY, APR 22. ARAFAT IS ALSO PRESSING TO COME TO THIS MEETING, BUT SADAT CLAIMS TO HAVE TURNED HIM DOWN ON GROUNDS HIS PRESENCE WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE USEFULLY TO SARG-GOE TALKS.

5. WHILE ON SUBJECT OF ARAFAT, SADAT RECALLED THAT ARAFAT HAD ASKED TO SEE HIM DURING THEIR CONDOLENCE VISIT TO RIYADH AFTER FAISAL'S ASSASSINATION. SADAT SAID HE HAD READ ARAFAT AND THREE OF HIS COLLEAGUES A STERN LECTURE IN FRONT OF BOUMEDIENNE. (COMMENT: FAHMY HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT SADAT HAD TALKED TO ARAFAT ALONE FIRST AND HAD THEN INVITED BOUMEDIENNE TO JOIN THEM.) A CHASTENED ARAFAT HAS SINCE THAT TIME GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO SHOW HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR EGYPT.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

SECRET

NNN

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